

## Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

/104 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8580

INFO USUN NEW YORK 2748

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, UN, UNHRC

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) -AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL  
PRISONERS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. US DEL MADE FORMAL INTRODUCTION OF  
RESOLUTION DEALING WITH AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS  
AND AT SAME TIME AGREED THAT RESOLUTION SHOULD BE DEFERRED  
UNTIL NEXT YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. US DEL INTRODUCED DRAFT RESOLUTION ON AMNESTY FOR  
POLITICAL PRISONERS PER INSTRUCTIONS. AUSTRIA, UK,  
ITALY, AND FRG WERE CO-SPONSORS. TEXT OF US REP STATEMENT  
FOLLOWS AT END OF CABLE. AS NON-ALIGNED EXPRESSED INTEREST  
IN TEXT BUT MADE A SPECIAL REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL TIME  
FOR CONSULTATION AND STUDY, US DEL AGREED TO SUGGESTION THAT  
RESOLUTION BE DEFERRED UNTIL NEXT SESSION. RESOLUTION WILL  
THEREFORE BE CARRIED OVER UNTIL NEXT YEAR AND WILL BE CONSID-  
ERED AS A HIGH PRIORITY ITEM.

3. BEGIN TEXT. STATEMENT INTRODUCING RESOLUTION  
ON AMNESTY OF POLITICAL PRISONERS  
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BY

LEONARD GARMENT  
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
MARCH 4, 1976

MR. CHAIRMAN,

LITTLE TIME IS LEFT TO THIS SESSION OF THE COMMISSION,  
CERTAINLY NOT TIME ENOUGH TO COMPLETE OUR APPOINTED TASKS.  
BUT THIS SHOULD NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF OUR TAKING, OR AT  
LEAST INITIATING, WHATEVER MODEST ACTION ALL DELEGATIONS CAN  
AGREE ON.

ALL DELEGATIONS, I BELIEVE, CAN AGREE ON CERTAIN POINTS.  
I RECALL PARTICULARLY THE ABILITY OF THIS COMMISSION TO AGREE  
BY CONSENSUS TO APPEAL IN EXPLICIT TERMS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF  
CHILE TO RELEASE FROM DETENTION CERTAIN SPECIFIED PRISONERS  
WHO HAD IN THE PAST BEEN POLITICAL ADVERSARIES ON THE PRES-  
ENT GOVERNMENT IN CHILE.

SO IN PRESENTING TO THE COMMISSION RESOLUTION E/CN.4/1336,  
THE UNITED STATES HAS INTRODUCED A MODEST RESOLUTION THAT  
AVOIDS THE CONTROVERSIAL THEMES OF OUR DEBATES. IT LIMITS  
ITSELF TO WHAT WE SHOULD ALL BE ABLE TO AGREE ON, AND IN FACT  
HAVE ALREADY AGREED ON IN CERTAIN SPECIFIC CASES. THE IMPORT-  
ANT DIFFERENCE IS THAT THIS RESOLUTION IS NOT LIMITED IN ITS  
APPLICATION TO ANY ONE STATE OR GROUP OF STATES. IT DOES  
NOT ATTEMPT TO DEFINE WHAT IS A POLITICAL PRISONER. IT  
LEAVES THIS AS A MATTER FOR APPEAL, ARGUMENT AND DECISION ON  
THE PART OF INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS AND GOVERNMENTS. IT RECOG-  
NIZES THAT DIFFERENT CONDITIONS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD  
CREATE CIRCUMSTANCES TOO COMPLEX TO COVER IN A SINGLE FORMU-  
LATION. IT REPRESENTS A SMALL STEP IN THIS AREA, BUT HOPE-  
FULLY, IT WILL BE A BEGINNING, NOT AN END. IT SIMPLY ASKS  
GOVERNMENTS TO GIVE CONSIDERATION, ON A HUMANITARIAN BASIS,  
TO THE COMMISSION OF AN ACT OF GOOD WILL, THE HIGHEST FORM OF  
CHARITY KNOWN TO GOVERNMENTS, THE GRANT OF AMNESTY.

CONSTRAINTS OF TIME ARE SUCH THAT IT MAY BE THIS RESO-  
LUTION CANNOT BE DEBATED AND DECIDED AT THIS TIME; IF THIS  
SHOULD BE THE CASE, I EARNESTLY HOPE THIS PLEA FOR AMNESTY  
WILL BE RECEIVED IN THE SPIRIT OF ITS PRESENTATION. I HOPE  
IT WILL BE THOUGHT ABOUT, DISCUSSED AND EVEN ACTED ON BEFORE  
THE COMMISSION TAKES A FINAL AND FORMAL DECISION. AND WHEN-  
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EVER THE COMMISSION TAKES UP THIS RESOLUTION, IT SHOULD  
CERTAINLY DO SO ON A PRIORITY BASIS.

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, AUSTRIA AND ITALY HAVE AGREED TO  
CO-SPONSOR RESOLUTION E/CN.4/1336. END TEXT.DALE

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